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Region 5

HOT ISSUES:

EPA Finds High Levels of Cancer-Causing Pollutant in Willowbrook, Ill.

Key message: EPA has determined that ethylene oxide emissions from a Sterigenics facility in Willowbrook, Ill., may present an unacceptable cancer risk for nearby workers and residents. The facility is adjacent to Region 5's Willowbrook office and COOP site. On Friday, June 21, Region 5 will notify affected employees and issue a news release alerting the community.

After computer modeling suggested there could be elevated levels of ethylene oxide near the facility, Region 5 conducted air sampling in May 2018. That sampling corroborated the model, which estimates that residents could have an increased cancer risk of 1,000 in a million, assuming a 70-year lifetime of exposure. This is compared to an estimated national average air toxics cancer risk of 40 cases per million people.

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